

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 and 52-69 are pending. Although the Office Action indicates that Claims 1-69 are pending and subject to restriction, Claims 36-51 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein in a Preliminary Amendment dated July 27, 2005. A copy of the Preliminary Amendment and the confirmation receipt is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

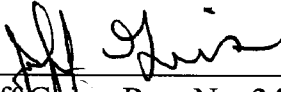
In the Office Action mailed May 22, 2007, the Examiner requested an election of a species of "an acid labile proton pump inhibitor" and a species of "at least one buffering agent" to facilitate the search and examination of the pending claims. For this purpose only, applicant provisionally elects "acid labile substituted bicyclic aryl-imidazole proton pump inhibitors" and "bicarbonate salts of Group IA metals". Such limitations should be more than sufficient for the Examiner to conduct a straightforward search. If a further election is required, then Applicant, with traverse on the ground that there is no undue burden, provisionally elects omeprazole and an antacid comprising sodium bicarbonate. Once patentability has been established for the elected species, Applicant will seek rejoinder of the non-elected species into the allowed claim set. Applicant also reserves the right pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected inventions during the pendency of the present application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that this paper fully addresses the Office Action mailed May 22, 2007. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (858) 350-2307.

Respectfully submitted,

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